

Article 16 – Suspension, Interpretation and Publication of the Constitution

16.01 Suspension of the Constitution

This Article ensures that the articles of the Constitution may not be suspended. This provides certainty and stability to the fundamental aspects of the Council's governance. However, it does provide for Rules of Procedure to be suspended provided this is to achieve an effect consistent with the purposes of the Constitution set out in Article 1. This might apply, for example, to Rules of Debate in Council where particular circumstances arise. However, the Constitution has been designed to be sufficiently flexible, and in the light of experience with transitional arrangements.

- (a) **Limit to suspension.** The Articles of this Constitution may not be suspended. The Rules specified below may be suspended by the full Council to the extent permitted within those Rules and the law.
- (b) **Procedure to suspend.** A motion to suspend any rules will not be moved without notice unless at least half of the whole Council is present and a simple majority vote is taken in favour. The extent and duration of suspension will be proportionate to the result to be achieved, taking account of the purposes of the Constitution set out in Article 1.
- (c) **Rules capable of suspension.** The following Rules may be suspended in accordance with Article 16.01:

- The Council Procedure Rules
- Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules
- Cabinet Procedure Rules
- Scrutiny Procedure Rules

16.02 Interpretation

The ruling of the Mayor as to the construction or application of this Constitution or as to any proceedings of the Council shall not be challenged at any meeting of the Council. Such interpretation will have regard to the purposes of this Constitution contained in Article 1.

16.03 Publication

- (a) The Head of Legal and Democratic Services will give a printed copy of this Constitution to each member of the authority upon delivery to him/her of that individual's declaration of acceptance of office on the member first being elected to the Council.
- (b) The Head of Legal and Democratic Services will ensure that copies are available for inspection at Council offices, libraries and other appropriate locations, and can be purchased by members of the local press and the public on payment of a reasonable fee.

- (c) The Head of Legal and Democratic Services will ensure that the summary of the Constitution is made widely available within the area and is updated as necessary.